

Valentine Crawford to George Washington, June 8, 1774, three same date, Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers. Published by the Society of the Colonial Dames of America. Edited by Stanislaus Murray Hamilton.

FROM MR. VALENTINE CRAWFORD.

JACOBS CREEKE June 8th 1774

DEAR COLO

I Receved your Letter by Mr Cresley of the 27th of May and am Sorrey for the Sudint Braking up of the Esembly before they hitt on Som Method to Releve our Distress Situation Butt it is a happey Scurcumstance for us Lordonmore¹ being So warm in our favour which gives us great Reselution to Stand our ground what few of us is Left though the Contra² is very thin we have Bilt Sevrell Forts out Hear which wase a verey great Means of the people Standing there ground I have built one att My house and have got Som Men to garde it and Mr. Simson has Built a Fort att the place where they are Building of your Mill³ by the Esistence of His Neabours and part of your Carpenters and I have been there Severell times and have Encuraged him all I can to Stand his ground and I have Severell times oferd him all the Carpenters and all the Sarvants but he would not take aney of the Sarvants and but four of the best of the Carpenters his Reason for not taking of the Sarvents as there wase a great dale of Companey att the Fort and drink Midling plenty it would be out of his power to govern them and he Said they would Run away from him and as to Carpenters he and Stephens the Millwright had Engaged Som

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Carpenters them Selves before this Erouption broake out with the Indens and are Louth to discharge them and take in these you Engaged for me to take down the ohio or att Least aney More of them than Can Conveniently work as he Says from the Noys of the Indens and the Crowds of people that Come to the Fort he Cant get Nothing don with the Small Number of hands he has but I will goe to Simson to Morrow-morning and Consult him farther on the afair and doe Every thing in My power for your Entrast the thoughts of Selling of the Sarvents Elarmed them verey Much for they dont want to be Sold but the hole of the Sarvents have had Som Short Spells of Sickness and Som others Cut them Selfes with an ax and Lay bye Som time and one of the best of Stephens Men Cut him Selfe with an adze the worst I Ever Saw aney body Cut in My Life So that he has Not been able to doe one Strok for Near one Month this hapened in digin the Canews I have Sent you a Scetch⁴ of Stephens article when I waite on Simson if he does Not take the Carpenters all I Shall Ether Sett them to building of a house att the big Meadows or discharge them Intirely for it Seems all Most Emposable to Ceep⁵ Men Close to bisness att a Fort where there is So meney people and So much Confusion if they Can doe Eney thing it Must be att the Medow as they will be to them Selfes and as Stevens Seems to be verey Loth to be discharged and Says he Left Som very good Jobs to Serve you

and as on Sunday Evning about 4 Miles over over Monongalahela the Endens Murderd one famely Consisting of Six and tuck two boys prisoners and att another place the[y] Kild 3 which Makes in the hole Nine and two prisoners and if we had Not had forts Built there would Not [have] been ten Famelys of this Side of the Mountains Besides what wase at Fort pitt but we have Sent out Scouts after the Mourder[er]s but we have Not heard that they have falin in with them yeat and we have att this time att Least 300 Men out after the Indens Som of which is gon down to wheeling and I bleve Som is gon down as Low as the Litle Conaway So I am in hopes they will give them a Stom⁶ for Som of the Scouting Companeey Say they will goe to there towns but they will get Scalps

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Mr George Mccormick who Carreys you this is to Return Emedently and will bring Me an answer to this as to your Neals⁷ and other things I have built [a] Strong Store house and Stored them up Safe and if we could hope for peace Soon I think No people Could Execute your bisness beter than thease sarvants as they will be Hardend to the ways of this Countra and they Seem verey well Satisfid and I bleve wont Run away or att Least Say they wont Run away from you but Sarve out there time honstly

So I am der Sir your Most Hble Sert to Comand VALE CRAWFORD give My Love to Mr Lund washington and tell him his people is well but has Moved in to a fort Near his place⁸

My Son which I Sent down wase taken with a bad Spell of Sickness and has Never Returnd to Me which gives Me great uneasiness who I Sopose has got the other Letter you Mention for I have Never Receved one Line from you Sence I Left your house and have wrote you Severell More Letters then you have Receved But as I mentioned before I will goe to Simson tomorrow and I will write you what Ever we Conclude on as to Selling of the Sarvents Sarvents there apears to be but a por Chance as there is but few purches and who has a Little Cash Seems to Keep [it] to Bear his Expences in case he Should be oblige to Run Away as to My provisions that I bought for My Selfe and Men I have great part of [them] Stored up in a house att the river Near My Brothers Still hoping that we Should have News of peace and then to Start down the River But this Last acount from the Indens put out of all dought our going down this Season and stephens Seems to be willing to be discharged on Condition you Will give him the offer of the Job when Ever you under take it again

I am yours V C⁹

1 Lord Dunmore

2 Country.

3 This mill was built on the site of the present town of Perryopolis.

4 Sketch.

5 Keep.

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6 Storm?

7 Nails.

8 Lund Washington's land on the Ohio is referred to in an entry in Washington's Journal October 15, 1770: "I Intended to have visited the Land which Crawford procured for Lund Washington this day also, but time falling short I was obligd to Postpone it."

9 The following is bound with this letter in the manuscripts: "Extract from an Article of Agreement made between George Washington Esqr. and William Stevens Febry. 29st. 9774 "And lastly said William Stevens doth hereby consent and agree, that if by sickness or any other unavoidable means he, or any of the five persons engaged by him shall loose any time, a deduction is to be made from his or their wages for the time so lost in proportion to what they are to receive. "NB. The Agreement of Bennet Jenkins and Jason Jenkins is the same —"